



TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
14846

In Re Application Of: Olin Calvin, et al.

Serial No. 09/923,562	Filing Date August 9, 2001	Examiner Donald H. Heckenberg	Group Art Unit 1722
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HANDLING LENS CARRIERS			

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Response to Restriction Requirement

in the above identified application.

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Dated: October 2, 2003

Frank S. DiGiglio, Reg. No. 31,346
SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 742-4343

FSD:AVS:jap

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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Olin Calvin, et al.**

Serial No: **09/923,562**

Filed: **August 9, 2001**

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
HANDLING LENS CARRIERS**

Examiner: **Donald H. Heckenberg**

Art Unit: **1722**

Docket: **14846 (VTN-551)**

Dated: **October 2, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Sir:

Pursuant to the Restriction Requirement imposed in the Official Action dated September 2, 2003, applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group III, i.e., Claims 7-19 for continued prosecution herein.

Claims 1-26 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

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Dated: October 2, 2003


Frank S. DiGiglio

Group I, Claims 1-3, drawn to a curing station, classified in class 425, subclass 174.4;

Group II, Claims 4-6, drawn to a method of moving contact lens carriers, classified in class 414, subclass 800;

Group III, Claims 7-19, drawn to an article handling apparatus, classified in class 414, subclass 222.01;

Group IV, Claims 20-23, drawn to a contact lens holding station, classified in class 414, subclass 798.2; and

Group V, Claims 24-26, drawn to a method for holding contact lens carriers in a station, classified in class 414, subclass 801.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV and V are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group III, Claims 7-19. However, applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Frank S. DiGilio
Reg. No. 31,346

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530

FSD:AVS:jap